

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 068634  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:GCB  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER  
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN  
NEA:EGABINGTON  
-----282309Z 015269 /61  
O 282215Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068634

EXDIS/STADIS/////////////////  
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SYRIAN JEWISH FAMILY TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 067005

1. ON MARCH 26, I DISCUSSED WITH STEVE SOLARZ'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT (SOLARZ WAS OUT OF TOWN) YOUR CONCERNS AND OURS THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE SYRIAN JEWISH FAMILY TO ISRAEL COULD COMPLICATE OR EVEN REVERSE THE PROGRESS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST YEAR IN EASING THE SITUATION OF THE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ AND HIS OFFICE APPEAR TO BE ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH AS WE ARE. ON MARCH 28, I WAS INFORMED BY SOLARZ'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN HIS BROOKLYN OFFICE, LOWENSTEIN, THAT HE HAD JUST TALKED TO ABE DWEK, WHO IS HEAD OF A BROOKLYN COMMITTEE TO RESCUE SYRIAN JEWRY. DWEK HAD BEEN THE IMPETUS  
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BEHIND EFFORTS TO HAVE THE SYRIAN FAMILY GO TO ISRAEL; AND LOWENSTEIN REPORTED THAT DWEK RECOGNIZED OUR CONCERNS AND HAD AGREED TO CALL OFF EFFORTS AIMED AT GETTING THE SYRIAN FAMILY TO ISRAEL.

2. ASSUMING THAT THIS EPISODE HAS NOW ENDED, I WILL NOT REPORT FURTHER TO YOU. FYI - IT MAY HAVE BEEN FORTUITOUS

THAT ONLY ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO I HAD SPOKEN QUITE CANDIDLY

TO ONE OF DWEK'S ASSOCIATES ABOUT THE NEED FOR DWEK'S GROUP TO REMAIN OPEN-MINDED ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND IN ANY EVENT NOT TO DO THINGS WHICH MIGHT COMPROMISE THE PROGRESS THAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY. DWEK'S ASSOCIATE APPEARED IMPRESSED AND ASKED THAT THE DEPARTMENT KEEP HIS GROUP INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. I ANSWERED THIS REQUEST BY SAYING THAT WE WERE KEEPING SOLARZ AND HIS OFFICE EXTREMELY WELL INFORMED AND SUGGESTED THAT HE AND HIS GROUP BE IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH LOWENSTEIN - END FYI.

3. STEVE SHALOM AND BERT CHABOT WILL BE MEETING WITH US IN SOLARZ'S OFFICE ON THURSDAY FOR A DEBRIEFING ON THEIR TRIP.  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE068634  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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